



Questions and Answers on Regional Bird Quarantine Exotic Newcastle Disease Information for Bird Owners November 13, 2002

Exotic Newcastle Disease, a highly contagious disease of birds, has been found in backyard poultry in this area ([LINK to Regional Quarantine map](#)). The State of California and the United States Department of Agriculture are conducting an eradication program for this disease.

The California State Veterinarian has imposed a regional quarantine ([LINK to Quarantine Notice](#)) (*Food and Agriculture Code Section 9562*) to prevent the spread of Exotic Newcastle Disease. This quarantine affects poultry exhibitions and owners of birds (listed species) within the quarantined area.

Bird Species under Quarantine

Chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, grouse, partridges, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, pea fowl (peacocks), doves, pigeons, swans and ratites (emus, ostriches, rheas, etc.). At this time, caged birds (parakeets, parrots, etc.) are not under quarantine.

Can I move my birds? If you own or sell any species of birds affected by the quarantine, and your birds are in the quarantined area, you are prohibited from moving your birds out of the quarantined area.

Can I show or sell my birds at swap meets or other bird sales? You may only show or sell poultry within the quarantined area if the event manager has a signed compliance agreement with the Department. Managers of shows, swap meets and other bird sales may call (562) 795-1940 to request a compliance agreement. Poultry that enter the quarantined area for

exhibition or sale are **NOT** permitted to leave the area.

Can my bird club hold its regular events? Any gathering of birds increases the risk of spreading disease. However, at this time, clubs whose bird species are not included in the quarantine may hold their regular events. To prevent spreading infection, it is strongly recommended that no birds of any species be moved into, within, or out of the quarantined area. Call 1-800-491-1899 for recommended guidelines.

How long will this quarantine be in effect? This quarantine will remain in effect until Exotic Newcastle Disease has been eradicated from California.

What may happen if I violate this quarantine? Anyone who violates the quarantine is civilly liable in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Will I be paid if my bird must be destroyed because of Exotic Newcastle Disease? Yes. An appraisal is made to determine the "fair market value" of birds that have Exotic Newcastle Disease or have been exposed to the virus.

Is this disease harmful to people? Exotic Newcastle Disease is not a public health threat and does not affect the safety of poultry or eggs.

How can I tell if my bird has Exotic Newcastle Disease? Many birds show serious signs including coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, loss of appetite, depression, and severe drop in egg production. Some species, especially caged birds, may be in apparently affected. Tests can be done to determine if your birds have been exposed to Newcastle Disease.

If you suspect that your bird has Exotic Newcastle Disease, please call 1-800-491-1899. Birds with signs of disease will be tested at no charge